

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

b.) Listing of Claims

1. (original) Reflected-light microscope comprising: a light source to generate an illumination light beam that can be directed through a lens that exhibits a pupil lens on a pupil plane, along an illumination beam path and onto a sample, and an imaging optic that generates an optically corresponding plane to the pupil plane, in which case at least one attenuation element that acts in an essentially uniform manner over the entire cross-section of the illumination light beam can be introduced into the illumination beam path on the optically corresponding plane.
2. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 1, wherein the attenuation element exhibits a grate structure or a sieve structure or a pinhole pattern.
3. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 1, wherein the attenuation element exhibits a color filter.
4. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 1, wherein at least one attenuation element exhibits a diffusion disk.
5. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to [[4]], wherein at least one attenuation element is produced by lithography.
6. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one attenuation element is arranged in a storage mechanism.

7. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 6, wherein the storage mechanism is a turret or a push slide or a rotatable disk.

8. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 6 ~~or~~ 7, wherein the storage mechanism holds several attenuation elements that exhibit different degrees of attenuation.

9. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 6 to 8, wherein the storage mechanism exhibits a neutral position that permits the illumination light beam to pass unaffected.

10. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 6 to 9, wherein the storage mechanism exhibits a blocking position that interrupts the illumination beam path.

11. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 6 to 10, wherein a drive mechanism is provided that controls the storage mechanism.

12. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 11, wherein the drive mechanism comprises a stepping motor.

13. (original) Reflected-light microscope according to claim 11, wherein a control mechanism is provided that controls the drive mechanism.

14. (currently amended) Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 13, wherein the illumination light beam is automatically attenuated or blocked during lens changes.

15. (currently amended)      Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 14, wherein at least one exchangeable optical element is arranged in the illumination beam path, in which case the illumination light beam is automatically attenuated or blocked while the optical element is being exchanged.

16. (currently amended)      Reflected-light microscope according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 15, wherein the reflected-light microscope is a fluorescence microscope.